

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: July YEAR: 2011
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE Troy Lindquist Service Hydrologist
DATE: August 15, 2011	
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	



An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.

Overview

Gradually decreasing snowmelt and high irrigation demand allowed water levels to lower on the main stem rivers. However, the late melt of the mountain snowpack kept flows well above average on most waterways, especially across the Upper Snake River and Bear River basins. Minor flooding occurred along reaches of the Teton River, Henrys Fork and Snake Rivers. Numerous small creeks in the Teton Valley overflowed their banks as high elevation snowpack in the Teton Mountains melted.

The large runoff volume filled the major storage reservoirs on the Snake River and kept reservoir discharges high through the month. Bear Lake experienced the highest rise in water during a runoff season in more than 40 years.

Warm and dry conditions typical of summer-time dominated the weather with occasional thunderstorm days. Monthly precipitation was near normal across the Snake River Plain and generally a little below normal across the high elevations.

River Flooding

Teton River near Driggs (DGGI1) - the river briefly rose to flood stage of 5.0 feet the evening July 5. The river crested at 5.0 feet and 2,580 cfs. A number of river access and boat launch sites were under water. Sections of County Road 600 South and 575 South had water on them as well as some driveways leading to rural homes. Lowland flooding occurred all along the river in Teton County.

Teton River near St. Anthony (TEAI1) - the river rose above flood stage of 6.0 feet in June and then receded below flood on July 9. The river crested at 6.37 feet and 5,466 cfs the evening of July 1. Flooding of agricultural fields and lowlands near the river occurred.

Henrys Fork near Rexburg (REXI1) - the river was above flood stage of 9.5 feet to start the month and receded below flood stage on July 8. The river crested at 9.92 feet and 7,658 cfs on July 2. Minor flooding of farmland and lowland occurred. Portions of Beaver Dick Park were flooded as were some recreational river access sites.

Snake River at Blackfoot (SNAI1) - the combination of full reservoirs on the Upper Snake River and significant rainfall over the headwaters led to increased releases from Palisades Reservoir in early July. This briefly pushed

water levels to flood stage of 10.0 feet the morning of July 11 and the river receded below flood stage late in the afternoon the same day. The river crested at 10.01 feet and 17,769 cfs and caused minor flooding of lowlands and agricultural fields adjacent to the river between Rose and Tilden Bridge.

Bear Lake County - extensive lowland and field flooding continued into the middle of July along the Bear River upstream of Stewart Dam. Water continued to surround a couple of homes in the Dingle area and water continued to impact a portion of Pegram Road near the town of Pegram. Water levels on the river receded considerably beginning July 24.

Small Stream and Flash Flooding

Teton County – melting of the remaining high elevation snowpack in the Teton Mountains continued to cause small creeks along the east side of the Teton Valley to overflow their banks. Teton, Darby, Fox and Trail Creeks began exceeding their banks in late June and by July 15 the snowmelt diminished enough that the creeks were no longer causing flood problems. Water from Darby Creek and Fox Creek impacted portions of Highway 33 between Driggs and Victor. Some property owners used sandbags to keep water off their land.

Bannock County – July 4, around 6:50 pm a thunderstorm caused street flooding near Costco and City Hall in Pocatello.

Fremont County – July 8, around 3:35 pm heavy rain caused several small creeks to overflow their banks in the Island Park area.

Custer County – July 12, around 1:50 pm heavy rain caused flash flooding in and around Challis.



July 12, Street flooding in Challis

Reservoirs

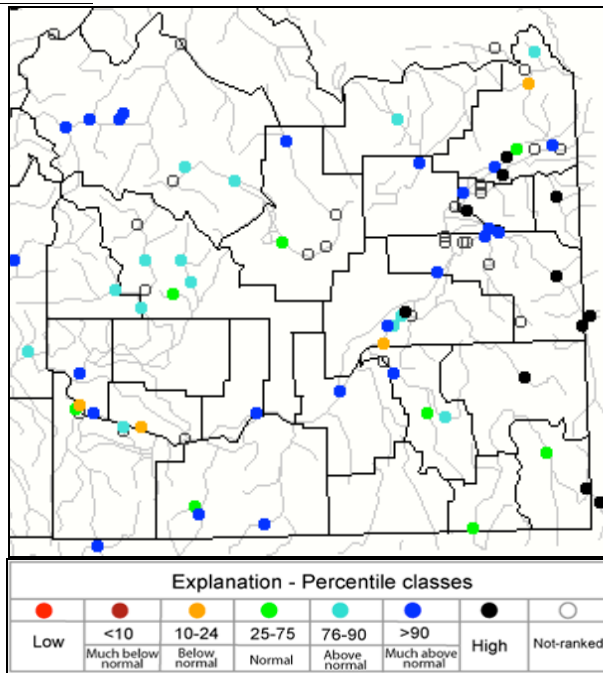
Bear Lake experienced its highest rise in water levels in more than 40 years. In 1965, the lake rose 7.68 feet and by the middle of July of this year the lake rose 11 feet since last fall's low point. The higher water levels eliminated vast amounts of beach that recreationalists and property owners became accustomed to over the last decade.

Reservoir	% Capacity June 30 ¹	% Capacity July 31 ²	Percent Change	% of Average ²	% of Last Year ²
American Falls	97	99	2	164	151
Bear Lake	78	89	11	120	203
Blackfoot	96	NA	NA	NA	NA
Henry's Lake	98	98	0	106	104
Island Park	99	99	0	132	142
Little Wood	100	87	-13	164	123
Mackay	100	93	-7	166	118
Magic	100	90	-10	145	130
Oakley	76	59	-17	146	225
Palisades	77	99	22	121	121
Ririe	100	100	0	119	103
Lake Walcott	96 ³	98 ⁴	2	n/a	n/a
Milner	80 ³	79 ⁴	-1	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) NRCS June 30, 2011; (2) NRCS July 31, 2011.

(3) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) June 27, 2011 (4) BOR July 29, 2011

Streamflow



Monthly streamflow compared to historical streamflow for July, 2011.



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